

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—We could not comply with the offer as there were other more pressing demands elsewhere.

Poor-House Building.

637. Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) when the Poor-House Building at Ernakulam was built ;

(2) what amount was spent on it ;

(3) what it is used for ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(1) The construction of the Poor-House Building was completed towards the end of 1104.

(2) Rs. 19,391-0-0.

(3) It is now lying vacant.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—May I know for what purpose the house was built ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The very name of the house declares the intention. It is for the poor.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Was it built without having any view with regard to its use ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is built for a specific purpose, to house the destitute and poor of Ernakulam.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—May I know why it is not carried out ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Because the contribution from the Municipality has not yet been received. For that some amendment to the Regulation is required. Pending that it is to be kept indefinitely closed.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Can it not be used for any other purpose ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No, no. It is intended for a specific purpose, and it has to be used for that purpose.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Before making use of it for that purpose could you not use it ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We do not anticipate any great delay. Even if it is intended to be utilised for any other purpose there will be delay before it is carried out. You cannot put it into effect immediately on the next day or in weeks or months. Sometimes it will be a long time to give effect to it. The matter is under correspondence. It will be used for the specific purpose for which it was intended. It cannot be used for any other purpose.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—How long will it take ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I cannot answer that.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Probably ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no use of answering that question. It will be a mere guess and will be only very very vague. I do not want to do that.